



**REPORT TO CORE AREA LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2009**

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**SUBJECT      SITE SELECTION FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT IN SAANICH EAST-NORTH  
OAK BAY - CORE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PROGRAM**

**PURPOSE**

To provide the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee (CALWMC) with information to support selection of a preferred location for a wastewater treatment facility in Saanich East-North Oak Bay (SENOB).

**BACKGROUND**

A report regarding site selection for SENOB was submitted to the CALWMC at its meeting of 07 October 2009. The committee approved the following:

- 1) Staff and consultants be authorized to initiate preparation of an environmental impact study, including archeological conditions, on the Finnerty-Arbutus site as required by the Ministry of Environment;
- 2) The District of Saanich be formally contacted to determine if part of the Saanich-owned portion of the Arbutus Meter Station site is available for construction and operation of a wastewater facility and if so, under what terms; and
- 3) The University of Victoria (UVIC) Board of Governors be formally contacted regarding the availability of sites for wastewater treatment facilities on the UVIC campus.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is required to complete an environmental impact study (EIS) as part of the Liquid Waste Management Plan amendment, as stated in the minister of environment's letter dated 14 December 2007. The EIS assesses the extent to which the proposed treatment facility or use of reclaimed water will affect human health and the environment. The EIS will reflect project effects on the terrestrial environment and the marine environment.

An EIS has been initiated for the SENOB facility on the Finnerty-Arbutus site at the direction of the CALWMC. Land use and environmental information has been collected and mapped. Fieldwork and detailed environmental investigations, including archaeological impact assessments, are being conducted to identify potential effects of construction and operation of the treatment and ancillary facilities on the terrestrial environment. Mitigation measures will be proposed to avoid or reduce any adverse effects. The public and First Nations will be engaged to share findings and review information.

With respect to the communication with UVIC, the university responded with additional expectations, including: further impact analysis and public consultation; funding to assist the university in assessment and evaluation; full land compensation; compensation for analysis of land and disruption to operations; and lastly, additional compensation to enhance its land base.

Taking these additional requirements into account, along with the extensive analysis of the three candidate sites conducted by Westland Resource Group, it is recommended that the Finnerty-Arbutus site be identified in the amendment as the potential site for SENOB. The sites at UVIC could be kept as potential backup locations should Finnerty-Arbutus not be approved by the province in the amendment.

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As directed by the CALWMC, CRD staff will continue to dialogue with the District of Saanich to determine if the plant location could be shifted eastward onto the Saanich-owned property, the Arbutus meter station site.

With respect to the balance of the CRD-owned property at Finnerty-Arbutus, a community benefits and mitigation paper will be submitted to the CALWMC in early 2010 to assist the committee in defining a use for the surplus site.

**ALTERNATIVES**

1. That the CALWMC approve the Finnerty-Arbutus site as the liquid treatment location for SENOB, but direct CRD staff to continue to work with the District of Saanich to determine the preferred plant location. The UVIC sites would remain as potential alternative sites.
2. That the CALWMC submit a request to UVIC Board of Governors for the acquisition of either site identified on UVIC property.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Funding for siting of wastewater treatment facilities is included in Bylaw 3615, 'Liquid Waste Management Core Area and Westshore Service Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1, 2009'. Obtaining land from the District of Saanich or UVIC may require funding from this or other sources.

The capital costs to construct a facility at a UVIC site is estimated at approximately \$25,000,000 more than the Finnerty-Arbutus site. As well, the annual operating costs are approximately \$300,000 higher for a UVIC site. There are also additional costs for a UVIC site, as identified in the recent letter from UVIC.

**SUMMARY**

A facility near the east coast interceptor has substantial advantages in avoiding the use of energy to pump sewage to higher elevations. The CALWMC authorized staff to undertake an environmental impact study and to engage the District of Saanich about the possibility of shifting the wastewater treatment facility site eastward onto the Arbutus meter station site. The committee also requested formal contact with UVIC. Based on UVIC's response, CRD staff recommends the Finnerty-Arbutus site as the preferred treatment location for SENOB.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee:

1. Approve the Finnerty-Arbutus site as the liquid treatment location for Saanich East-North Oak Bay;
2. Request Capital Regional District staff to continue to work with the District of Saanich to determine the preferred plant location; and
3. Keep the University of Victoria sites as potential alternative sites.

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